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General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
55th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 1 May 1991
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 3.50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS (continued)

(h) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE (A/45/142/Add.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that in document A/45/142/Add.1, the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly of the resignation of Mr. Viktor A. Vislykh of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. Accordingly, the General Assembly would be required at its current session to appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of Mr. Vislykh's term of office, which would end on 31 December 1991. In the same document, the Secretary-General had informed the Assembly of the nomination by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of Mr. Leonid E. Bidny to fill that vacancy.

2. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot and to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Leonid E. Bidny as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee to fill the unexpired portion of Mr. Vislykh's term of office.

3. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 126: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

(c) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

Amendments to the Staff Regulations (continued) (A/C.5/45/3 and Corr.1 and Add.1; A/C.5/45/L.27)

4. The CHAIRMAN said that, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/3 and Corr.1 and Add.1), the General Assembly had approved a number of recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission which affected the Staff Regulations. Those recommendations had been submitted to the Committee in documents A/C.5/45/3 and Corr.1; the annex to the draft resolution in document A/C.5/45/L.27 contained the proposed consequential amendments to the Staff Regulations. The Assembly was being asked formally to approve their incorporation into the Staff Regulations.

5. Mr. KALBITZER (Germany) wished to know why the Committee had not taken up the matter of amending the Staff Regulations earlier in its session.

6. Mr. TIEWUL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the matter had been brought before the Committee previously but had been inadvertently overlooked when the Committee had taken action on matters relating to agenda item 126 (c).

7. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.27 was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the Joint Inspection Unit (continued) (A/C.5/45/75)

8. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) wished to know why the Committee had decided to resume its consideration of the agenda item. His delegation had studied the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/45/75) carefully and had found that it raised two questions. First, he wondered whether the General Assembly could take a decision on the financial aspects of the matter without the consent of other organizations within the United Nations system. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) was a subsidiary organ not only of the General Assembly but also of the governing bodies of other organizations. Therefore, any decision on appropriations seemed to be premature. Secondly, acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals would require an amendment to the JIU statute, and he questioned whether it was appropriate for the Committee to take a decision on the matter without resuming consideration of the item dealing with the reports of JIU. He wondered whether the Committee, which had many other issues before it, was in a position to devote so much time to the matter.

9. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the observations of the representative of Japan. The proper procedure would be to consider an amendment to the JIU statute and not, as the Secretary-General had suggested, to interpret the existing statute as permitting payment at the D-2 level, step VI. His delegation therefore recommended that the Committee take no action on the Secretary-General's request at the current session and, if necessary, that it consider introducing an amendment to the statute at its forty-sixth session.

10. Mr. MENDEZ (Philippines) said that his delegation wished to know whether the specialized agencies contributed to the payment of the salaries and allowances of JIU officials.

11. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the expenses of JIU were shared among the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

12. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) inquired whether the Secretary-General's proposals should be considered as having been based on consultations with the specialized agencies.

13. Mr. KALBITZER (Germany) said that the Committee was spending too much time on consideration of the agenda item. He supported the proposal by the representative of the United States that the matter should be taken up at the forty-sixth session.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to defer consideration of the issue raised by the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/45/75) until the forty-sixth session of the

(The Chairman)

General Assembly, as proposed by the representative of the United States and supported by the representative of Germany.

15. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 156: FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION (continued)
(A/45/240/Add.1 and 1005; A/C.5/45/L.28)

16. Mr. HOSANG (Unit for Peace-keeping and Special Assignments) said that, at the previous meeting, the representative of China had raised the question of the mission subsistence allowance mentioned in paragraph 1 (b) (iv) of annex II to the Secretary-General's report (A/45/240/Add.1). Some 40 members of the logistical support unit would be based at locations where food and accommodation could not be provided. In normal circumstances, the United Nations reimbursed Governments for their contingents at the standard reimbursement rates established by the General Assembly. Since the 40 members of the logistical support unit would not be provided with food and shelter, it had been proposed that they should receive a daily subsistence allowance.

17. The representative of the Soviet Union had referred to the acquisition of equipment. It had been agreed that no equipment which was considered to be over and above the requirements of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) would be acquired and that, to the extent possible, maximum use should be made of the resources left over from the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

18. With respect to the question of reducing assessments, raised by the representative of the United States, he said that, in its recommendations, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) took into consideration the currently known voluntary contributions made to UNIKOM in kind, as well as the possibility of using existing stocks of equipment. The existing stocks of equipment left over from the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) would be made available to UNIKOM. In fact, some of that equipment was already in the mission area or on its way to it. The Secretariat took note of the observation regarding the host Government's efforts to obtain premises for the observer mission.

19. The travel cost of $3,300 indicated in paragraph 1 (a) (ii) of annex II to document A/45/240/Add.1 represented one-way travel for military observers and covered economy class air transportation, an allowance of 100 kilograms for unaccompanied excess baggage and a travel subsistence allowance for those observers entitled to a stopover on their way to the mission area. The cost represented an average based on the fact that UNIKOM military personnel would be recruited from some 30 countries worldwide. With regard to staffing, all civilian staff would be assigned to the mission area and none of the posts

indicated in annex III to the Secretary-General's report (A/45/240/Add.1) would be assigned to New York. The resources credited to the support account for peace-keeping operations would be used in accordance with the current guidelines.

20. Mr. RAE (India) said that the facilities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) contained office furniture and equipment worth some $4 million. He wondered whether the Secretariat had explored the possibility of using some of that equipment for UNIKOM.

21. Mr. HOSANG (Unit for Peace-keeping and Special Assignments) said that he had no information regarding the state of equipment at ESCWA, or even whether it was still there. Until that was known, it would be difficult to say whether that equipment could be made available to UNIKOM.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.